

ER 61 - 8576/A

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4-28-1961
Reverend Michael P. Walsh, S. J.
President
Boston College
Chestnut Hill 67
Massachusetts

Dear Father Walsh:

I apologize for the delay in acknowledging your kind letter of October 26 inviting me to receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at Boston College on June 18, 1962.

I wish to assure you of my deep appreciation for considering me for the honor of receiving a degree from such an outstanding educational institution as Boston College. However, I have reviewed this matter with top people in the Agency, and in conjunction with others in government, it has been decided that I should remain more or less anonymous during the initial months in my new position. Therefore, I am declining all such invitations to speak at Commencement Exercises or make other public addresses, at least for my first six months as Director of the CIA.

I am sure that you understand the reasons for this and also understand how much I appreciate your considering me in connection with this honor.

Yours most sincerely,

O/DCI/TML/jl
Distribution:

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John A. McCone
Director

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BOSTON COLLEGE
CHESTNUT HILL 67
MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 26, 1961

Mr. John McCone
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCone:

I realize that you are very busy at this particular time as you assume your new responsibilities as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. I know, too, that very likely very many invitations will be extended to you to participate in commencement exercises in June. If you recall, I have written to you in the past. We want so very much to have you with us this year that we sincerely hope that we can have the joy of your presence at our Commencement Exercises in June.

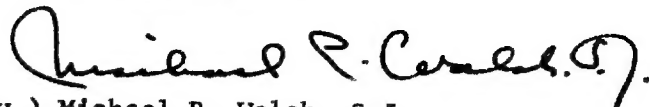
I have been commissioned by the Trustees of Boston College to invite you to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at our annual University Commencement Exercises on Monday, June 11, 1962.

I would appreciate it very much if you would deliver the Commencement Address to our graduates on that occasion. His Eminence Cardinal Cushing has expressed a great interest in having you with us at our Commencement in 1962. We were very fortunate to have Mr. Dulles receive an honorary degree last year.

It is an honor for me to extend this invitation to you and I will appreciate it if you will let me know at your convenience whether or not you can come to Boston College to accept the degree and address our graduates.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



(Rev.) Michael P. Walsh, S.J.
President